

In the Claims

Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing a fluid sample comprising:
 - ~~(iv)~~(i) a platform comprising:
 - ~~(e)~~(a) a chamber suitable for receiving a sample; and
 - ~~(d)~~(b) a functional component;
 - ~~(v)~~(ii) an arm capable of being raised and lowered and including a means for removeably attaching to the functional component such that said component may be raised and lowered with the arm; and
 - ~~(vi)~~(iii) a means for moving the platform such that any chamber or functional component may be aligned with respect to the arm.
2. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the platform is circular.
3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 2~~Claim 1 wherein the arm mechanically removeably attaches to the functional component.
4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 3~~Claim 1 wherein the apparatus comprises a means for raising and lowering the arm in a substantially vertical direction.

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5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 4~~Claim 1 wherein the functional component is used to remove an analyte from the sample in the chamber.
6. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 5 wherein the chamber of the apparatus comprises a solid phase binding material capable of forming a complex with the analyte.
7. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 6 wherein said solid phase binding material is silica.
8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of Claims 5 to 7~~Claim 5 wherein the apparatus comprises a means for attracting said complex.
9. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 8 wherein said means is a magnet.
10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~Claims 8 to 9~~Claim 8 wherein said functional reagent is a sheath which provides an interface between the means for attracting the complex and the complex itself.
11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 10~~Claim 1 wherein the apparatus additionally comprises a physical processing means.

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12. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 11 wherein the physical processing means is a means for heating the contents of a chamber of the apparatus.
13. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 11 wherein the physical processing means is a means for sonicating the contents of a chamber of the apparatus.
14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 13~~ Claim 1 wherein the chamber of the apparatus is coated at least in part with an electrically conducting polymer.
15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 14~~ Claim 1 wherein the apparatus comprises a chamber comprising pre-dispensed reagents.
16. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 15 wherein the reagents are bound to further solid phase binding material.
17. (Original) Use of an apparatus according to Claim 1 for the processing of a sample prior to a nucleic acid amplification reaction.
18. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a fluid sample wherein the method comprises:
- (vii)(i) placing a sample comprising an analyte into a first chamber located on a platform of an apparatus;

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~~(viii)~~(ii) binding the analyte to a binding material to form an analyte - binding material complex;

~~(ix)~~(iii) lowering a means for reversibly attracting said complex into said first chamber and allowing the complex to be attracted to said means;

~~(x)~~(iv) raising said means from the first chamber;

~~(xi)~~(v) moving said platform such that a second chamber is now aligned with the means for reversibly attracting said complex; and

~~(xii)~~(vi) lowering said means for reversibly attracting said complex into the second chamber and allowing the complex to detract from said means;

~~characterised in that~~wherein the analyte is subjected to a physical processing step either in the first chamber or in the second chamber.

19. (Original) A method according to Claim 17 wherein the physical processing step is a sonication step.

20. (Original) A method according to Claim 17 wherein the physical processing step is a heating step.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of Claims 17 to 20~~Claim 17 wherein the sample is also subjected to a chemical processing step.

22. (Original) Use of a method according to Claim 17 for the processing of a sample prior to a nucleic acid amplification reaction.

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23. (Original) Use of a binding material in a method according to Claim 17 for the processing of a sample prior to a nucleic acid amplification reaction.
24. (Currently Amended) A lid, suitable for closure of a vessel, said lid comprising a membrane ~~and characterised in that~~wherein said membrane is recessed within the lid.

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